

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSM-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
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R 061538Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5627
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
USMISSION SINAI

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, IS
SUBJECT: RABIN WARNS HOMELAND COULD BE STATE

1. THE RABIN GOVERNMENT PRESENTED A DETAILED REVIEW OF ITS RECORD IN FOREIGN POLICY AT YESTERDAY'S WEEKLY CABINET MEETING AND STAGED A LONG-POSTPONED FOREIGN POLICY DEBATE. PRIME MINISTER RABIN IS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT PRESIDENT CARTER'S STATEMENTS ON A HOME- LAND FOR THE PALESTINIANS WERE A "SERIOUS WITHDRAWAL" FROM HIS COUNTRY'S POLICY IN THE PAST. HE ADDED, "THESE STATEMENTS PRESENT US WITH A GRAVER PROBLEM THAN THE QUESTION OF BORDERS. PRESIDENT CARTER'S DEFINITION OF HOMELAND COULD EASILY BE INTERPRETED AS CONSENT TO ESTABLISH A NEW STATE FOR THE
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PALESTINIANS." RABIN MAINTAINED THAT HIS GOVERN-
MENT'S POLICIES HAD ENABLES ISRAEL TO BE RESPONSIVE
TO U.S. PUBLIC OPINION WHILE ALSO INFLUENCING IT.

2. FOREIGN MINISTER ALLON SUMMED UP HIS OWN
PRESENTATION BY STATING THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S
BALANCED AND CONSIDERED POLICY, WHICH - ALONGSIDE

THE STRESSING OF THE ESSENTIALNESS OF DEFENSIBLE BORDERS AND OPPOSITION TO A RETURN TO THE 1967 LINES, AS WELL AS OPPOSITION TO ESTABLISHMENT OF A PALESTINIAN STATE TO THE EAST OF ISRAEL -- EMPHASIZED ON EVERY OCCASION ISRAEL'S READINESS FOR TERRITORIAL COMPROMISE, ENABLES ISRAEL TO MOBILIZE THE SUPPORT OF IMPORTANT ELEMENTS IN WORLD OPINION, AND IT WAS DUE TO THIS POLICY THAT THE UNITED STATES' ECONOMIC, DEFENSE AND POLITICAL SUPPORT WAS ACHIEVED." HE MAINTAINED THAT "WHEREAS ON THE SUBJECT OF THE NATURE OF PEACE THE UNITED STATES' POSITION REMAINED CLOSE TO ISRAEL'S --ON THE SUBJECT OF DEFENSIBLE BORDERS AND ON THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION, THERE WAS THE LIKELIHOOD OF A SERIOUS ARGUMENT HAVING DEVELOPED WITH THE U.S. GOVERNMENT EVEN HAD THE ISRAEL GOVERNMENT AS PRESENTLY CONSTITUTED REMAINED IN OFFICE." HE NOTED: "TO DATE, DURING ARGUMENTS AND DISSENSIONS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND THE U.S. GOVERNMENT, FRONTAL CONFRONTATION HAD BEEN AVOIDED-- IN GREAT MEASURE DUE TO THE AFOREMENTIONED FUNDAMENTAL POSITIONS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL. BY VIRTUE OF ISRAEL'S POLICY, IT HAD BEEN POSSIBLE TO MOBILIZE BROAD RESERVES OF FRIENDSHIP AMONG THE U.S. ADMINISTRATION AND PUBLIC ALIKE."

3. A SPECIAL CABINET SESSION IS SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 10 TO REVIEW SECURITY PROBLEMS AND THE INVESTIGATIVE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REPORT OF LAST MONTH'S HELICOPTER CRASH WITH THE LOSS OF 54 IDF MEN.

4. COMMENT: RABIN'S COMMENTS ABOUT THE PRESIDENT'S STATEMENTS ON A PALESTINAINS HOMELAND WERE QUOTED EXTENSIVELY IN THE PRESS BUT NOT IN THE GOI PRESS BULLETIN WHICH MERELY PROVIDED A LONG SUMMARY OF RABIN'S AND ALLON'S PRESENTATION TO THE CABINET. RABIN'S REMARKS ARE IN CONTRAST TO THE ALIGNMENT'S CAMPAIGN RHETORIC WHICH SPOKE OF A SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP AND UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE ALIGNMENT GOVERNMENT AND THE U.S. ALLON'S REFERENCE TO THE LIKELIHOOD OF SERIOUS DISAGREEMENT WITH THE U.S. EVEN IF THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT HAD CONTINUED IS ALSO A SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT TUNE FROM HIS RECENT ANONYMOUS CRITICISM OF BEGIN'S HARDLINE STATEMENTS (TEL AVIV 3922, 3970). LEWIS

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